

Volunteers fill 'jobs' throughout community

Becky Papp
"Jet 48" correspondent

Thirty seven base agencies depend on volunteers to provide seamless service on a day-to-day basis throughout the RAF Lakenheath community. Hundreds of these volunteers will be honored Monday through April 19 during National Volunteer Week.

"Through Volunteer Week we hope to increase awareness and recognize volunteers," explains Gail Lyons-Roberts, volunteer resource program manager at the family support center.

Volunteers are at Girl Scout meetings, in the library, at the tax center, even in the squadrons. These people are members of the community who are generous with their time and effort. While most volunteers are dependents, approximately a quarter of the registered volunteers are active duty.

Capt. Susan Scrafford, 48th Services Squadron, who recently volunteered her time for the community activity center's production of "I Hate Hamlet," volunteers for many reasons.

"The reward really is tangible," explains Scrafford, "in the friends I have made." Scrafford is volunteering at the CAC again, this time as the vocal director for their next production, "Little Shop of Horrors."

There is also an active retiree volunteer community. The Lakenheath retiree activities office contributed 4,857 volunteer hours in

1996. Among their efforts, volunteers worked on a web page, and edited a guide for retiring in the United Kingdom.

"People volunteer for many reasons," says Rose Pittman, volunteer resource program manager. "To get out of the house, to gain or keep skills, or to help with their job search. And some people just like to help others."

Both the Red Cross and the family support center have openings for volunteers across the base.

The Red Cross has positions available mainly at the school and in medical facilities.

The family support center manages the volunteer resource program. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can go to the volunteer resource program office and see the "job descriptions" available at various agencies.

Organizations such as the child development center or the youth center develop a list of needs into a job description with the help of the resource program. Prospective volunteers can look for areas of interest and "apply" for the positions at the agency.

The volunteer resource program is coordinating a volunteer luncheon as one of the activities during volunteer week. During the



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

Doreen Eimers, Red Cross volunteer with the First Steps program at the hospital, has been volunteering for more than five years.

luncheon, free child care is provided for volunteers.

"Through volunteer week we hope to increase awareness and recognize volunteers," explains Lyons-Roberts.

Lakenheath currently has nearly 650 people working as volunteers who are contributing thousands of hours a month to the base community.

People interested in volunteering can call Red Cross staff, at Ext. 1855 or Pittman at Ext. 3847.



Photo by SSgt. Scott Davis

Tinisha Agramonte, volunteer program assistant (right), discusses volunteer options with Sonya Jones who currently volunteers at the Air Force Audit Agency.

National Volunteer Week activities

Monday

A volunteer awareness table is at the base exchange from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Learn about the many volunteer agencies and the various volunteer positions throughout the base. Stop by to find out which is right for you

Volunteer workshop: Clothes and colors is from 1 - 3 p.m. at the community activity center. Get maximum use out of those odd pieces of clothing in your wardrobe, and learn how to accessorize. Limited seating. To sign up, call Ext. 3847.

Tuesday

Free volunteer trip to Norwich from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to all volunteers. Take this opportunity to meet new friends, even if you've been before you've never been with us. Registration is required.

Thursday

Volunteer recognition luncheon from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the officers' club ballroom. The 48th Fighter Wing will take this opportunity to say "thank you" to our volunteers for the time, dedication and support they provide the Liberty Wing community. Free child care is provided on a first-come, first-served basis for volunteers attending the luncheon.

For more information, call the family support center staff at Ext. 3847.



Red Cross recognizes volunteers

The Red Cross recognized it's volunteers at a recognition luncheon April 2. Nearly 300 volunteers contributed more than 50,000 hours to the Laiberty Wing from March - December 1996.



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

Holly McMannes replaces combination locks on post offices mail boxes.

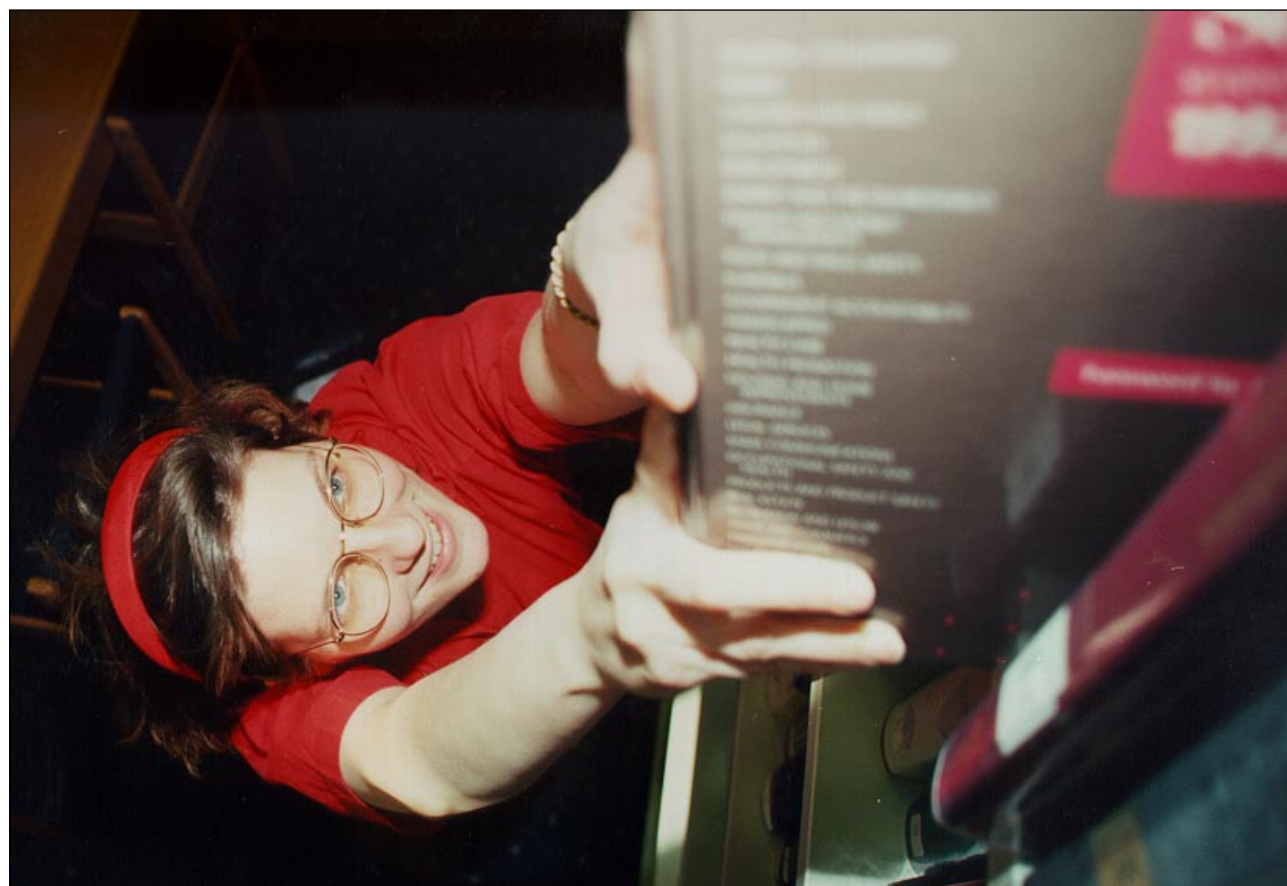


Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

Renee Sercovich places a book back on a shelf at the library.